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Montana State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee

MONTANA SOICC

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Helena, Montana 59624
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MONTANA SOICC NEWSLETTER

HELPING STUDENTS CHOOSE CAREERS?

SIGN UP FOR AN IMPROVED CAREER DECISION MAKING WORKSHOP!

The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) and the Montana State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee (SOICC) are pleased to announce three upcoming Improved Career Decision Making (ICDM) workshops.

The ICDM Inservice Program marks a major effort to enhance Montana counselor knowledge and use of labor market, occupational, and career information. The program's objective is to help counselors help individuals to make career decisions that better reflect the realities of the labor market.

ICDM provides practicing counselors with training on the availability and use of career and labor market information. The project also builds linkages between high school, job training, Job Service, and vocational rehabilitation counselors and local producers and users of career and labor market information.

Counselors have their choice of three locations for the ICDM workshops in April and May:

Havre	April 7, 8, and 9
Miles City	April 28, 29, and 30
Kalispell	May 12, 13, and 14

There will be no charge to attend the workshops.

ALL CAREER AND OCCUPATIONAL COUNSELORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND AN ICDM WORKSHOP. Travel expenses must be paid by each of the employing agencies/programs. Lodging at state rates of $24.00 per night is being provided at host hotels/motels. You will be required to make your own reservations for lodging if necessary. One Continuing Education Unit (CEU) graduate credit is being offered through the University of Montana for this workshop. The cost for this CEU is $35. More information about the CEU will be available at the workshop.

If you are interested in attending this workshop, please complete the form on page 7 of this newsletter and mail to the Montana SOICC, P.O. Box 1728, Helena, MT 59624.

Each workshop will be limited to 30 participants on a first-come, first-serve basis, so **REGISTER EARLY!**

MONTANA OCCUPATIONAL NEWS

In a recent interview with a Montana Job Service counselor, we found there is a shortage of qualified workers in Montana for occupations such as occupational and physical therapists, librarians, auditors, speech pathologists, systems analysts, and food service managers.

Occupations with the highest number of job openings in the state include service and retail occupations. These occupations have an increase in openings as summer months come on. It is also difficult to find qualified applicants for clerical jobs. This is in part due to many clerical positions being only part-time, and applicants may not be able to survive on less than full-time wages.

Fields with occupational surpluses, or more people available for specific occupations than there are jobs include construction and crafts occupations (carpenters, plumbers, electricians), logging occupations, mining-related occupations, and geophysical occupations (oil exploration).

One of the occupational skills most in demand at the present is computer-related ability in the clerical field.

KEY ISSUES FOR CAREER PLANNING

Helping students with career planning is a major service counselors provide to students. Examples of the implications that research has for this practice are as follows:

* Counselors should inform students, particularly droupout-prone youth, that completion of a diploma, certificate, or degree will positively affect their employment changes and their earning potential. Moreover, education, especially postsecondary education, pays even more for minority students than for white males.

* Counselors should encourage students not planning to enter a postsecondary education program to:

  - concentrate heavily in a vocational specialty area.

  - obtain some work experience while in high school.

  - search for employment after graduation in an occupational area **related** to their high school vocational training.

* Counselors should encourage students who are dropout-prone, bored, or frustrated with school to try vocational education as a supplement or alternative to the academic or general curricula.

* Counselors need to realize that participation in secondary vocational education **does not** limit the possibilities of going on to postsecondary education. Research indicated that 60 percent of vocational students continued their education at the postsecondary level.

* Counselors should conduct more extensive outreach activities to all students but especially to the dropout-prone students.

EDUCATION IN RURAL AMERICA

What is rural America really like? Do most rural Americans live on farms? What is the quality of life for rural Americans? What special needs do rural Americans have that can be met through vocational education? Vocational education instructors, administrators, and policymakers need an accurate understanding of rural America to plan and provide quality programs for rural youth and adults.

Rural Americans live on farms, in the open countryside, or in non-metropolitan areas with populations of less than 2,500 inhabitants incorporated as cities, boroughs, villages, and towns.

Rural Americans comprise about half of Montana's population. When comparing Montana census rates from 1950 to 1980, a very gradual increase in growth in urban areas has occurred. Urban population for Montana in 1980 was 52.9%, with rural population at 47.1%.

Work opportunities are limited in rural areas. Usually job opportunities within a specific area are limited to one or two industries that require low-skill, low-paid workers. In general, rural Americans tend to be underemployed and work at lower wages.

Many states are using economic development strategies that attract labor-intensive industries to rural areas. This re-industrialization is creating more jobs; however, since many of these are low-skill jobs, rural industrialization does not always improve the income level of rural Americans.

Rural schools have unique problems. These school districts tend to be smaller than metropolitan districts. Smaller size and limited financial resources make it more difficult to provide programs and services. This means that fewer rural schools provide a wide range of curriculum offerings, and are less apt to have special services available to students.

Implications for Vocational Education

This picture of rural America has implications for vocational education programming. Some important needs that are suggested by this information include the following:

* The basic skill level of rural students tends to be lower than other areas of the country. Vocational education programs need to strengthen basic skills education.

* Curriculums need to be developed to handle the changes faced by agribusiness industries today.

* Vocational education can support economic development through cooperation with new industries in the development of training programs.

* Many rural Americans are self-employed. Recent programs that have been developed to teach entreprenuer skills will be highly relevant for the rural population. Vocational education programs should incorporate entrepreneurial courses in their curriculum.

* Because of the small size and limited resources of rural schools, it is difficult to provide varied course offerings. One solution to this is consolidation for the purpose of vocational education, which provides more cost-effective and varied curriculums.

* Since many rural Americans are underemployed, it is crucial to have career counseling assistance that will help individuals both in and out of school develop plans for career upgrading.

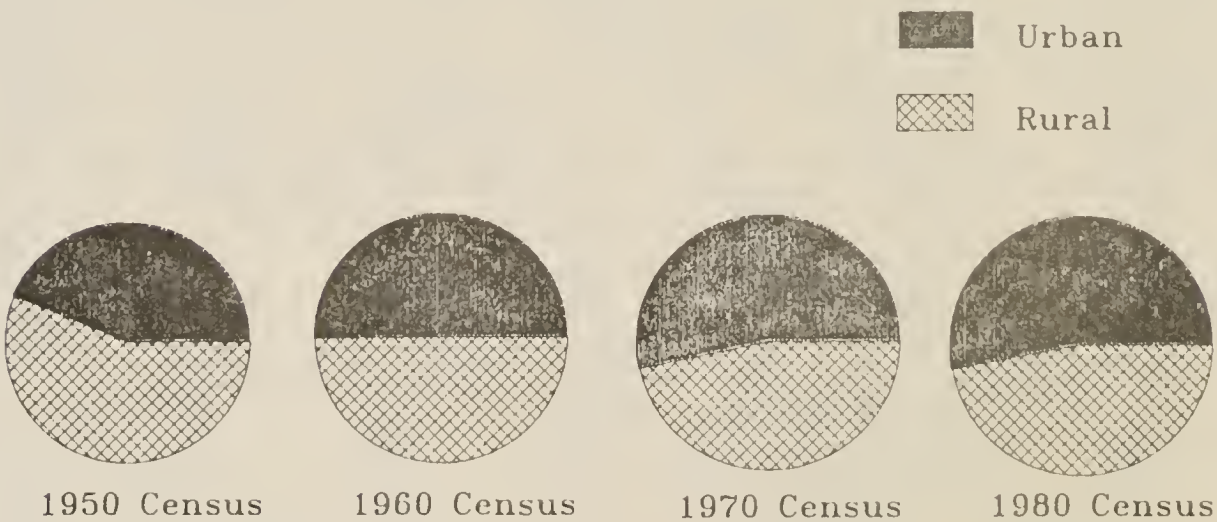
* Vocational educators need to work with parents to help them understand the need for new curriculum areas. Their support will be important in providing vocational education programs that will result in increased economic benefits for participants.

* Since many rural Americans are underemployed or need to develop new skills for employment in new industries, there is an ongoing need for skill upgrading and career change. Vocational education programs at all levels need to work cooperatively to develop plans for providing this needed training for the adult population.

Source: ERIC OVERVIEW Fact Sheet #15, Clearinghouse on Adult, Career, and Vocational Education

MONTANA POPULATION: URBAN vs. RURAL

1950 to 1980 Census Data



LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ON CAREER FIELDS?

Explore popular fields with these guides:

Criminal Justice Careers Guidebook

Developed with the cooperation of major criminal justice agencies throughout the United States, this guidebook provides detailed information on criminal justice occupations in the areas of law enforcement, corrections and rehabilitation, and the judiciary. Duties, job requirements, and opportunities are described for each occupation, and extensive information is provided on education and training, licensing, or other special certification requirements. Sources of further information are also identified. 184 p. il. $7.00

Health Careers Guidebook

This publication describes jobs, opportunities, and training for each area of health care. It provides a quick picture of what is happening in the field today, basic facts on the industry, and where new and changing opportunities lie. It also offers career planning tips, such as how to explore the varied career possibilities in the health field, how to choose a particular career, and how to select the right school for training. Other information included: financial aid, a health careers calendar, individual career descriptions, and a reference list containing the names and addresses of more than 150 health organizations that provide health careers information. 221 p. il. $7.50

Merchandising Your Job Talents

This bestselling booklet from the Department of Labor shows job searchers how to sell their knowledge, skills, and experience effectively in today's competitive marketplace. It covers everything from self-appraisal and resume preparation to testing and interviewing. Sample resumes and a sample letter of application are included as guides. The booklet also lists sources of detailed information about all kinds of jobs. A handy guide for job seekers of all ages. 21 p. il. $2.75

Career Opportunities in the Hotel and Restaurant Industries

This guide explains how career opportunities in this industry have grown over the past 50 years. More than 200 occupations in restaurants and hotels are described, along with the personal characteristics, experience, education, and training needed. Places of employment such as skytels, camping parks, and marinas are included. Interesting background information described changes that have taken place in hotels and restaurants, as well as the opportunities that may develop in the 1980s. 134 p. il. $5.50

Career Opportunities in Art Museums, Zoos and Other Interesting Places

This guide depicts more than 200 unique and rewarding occupations, from children's zoo caretaker to furniture restorer. It provides detailed advice that explains what each job is like, how to match jobs with personalities and background, the education or training needed, and how to find a job. An excellent guide for those starting their careers or looking for a change. 166 p. il. $7.00

You can order these publications from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9325.

FREE AND INEXPENSIVE CAREER MATERIALS

Few elementary school children dream of a career in **logistics management**, but this is an important field offering jobs in warehouse administration, **transportation and public carriers, materials handling, inventory and stock management, and manufacturing. The** free booklet **Careers in Logistics**, available from the Council of Logistics Management (2803 Butterfield Road, Suite 380, Oak Brook, IL 60621), profiles seven career options and sources of information on training for **this field. The New York Times** (April 29, 1986) reports a strong demand for logistics graduates with bachelor's recipients earning from $18,500 to $30,000 and master's holders as high as $38,500.

Jobs using **foreign languages** are the focus of a revised Career Handbook published by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (c/o Ruth Bennett, 70-07 170th Street, Flushing, NY 11365). This 15-page booklet is free, but send a stamped (39 cent) self-addressed #10 size return envelope with your request.

Some of the most interesting **internship opportunities** are offered by governmental agencies. An excellent list of **Internships Offered by State Governments** is available for $3.50 from the States Information Center, Council of State Governments, P.O. Box 11910, Lexington, KY 40568. Most are with state legislatures and many provide a salary or stipend.

A leaflet **Is Nursing for You?** is available from the National Student Nurses' Association (555 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019). This 12-page booklet summarizes career options in the field and reviews the several ways to enter nursing.

For too many young people, their only contact with **mining** came from watching Snow White and Jolly Dwarfs sing as they walked to the pits. Yet, this field has tremendous implications for our critical international balance of payments problem. The Society of Mining Engineers (Carrier Box D, Littleton, CO 80127) distributes two free booklets which can be recommended: **Careers for Engineers in the Minerals Industry** and **The Great American Coal Challenges: What Part Will You Play?**

Every two years, the Bureau of Labor Statistics summarizes employment prospects by occupation for the next ten years. The latest in this series appeared in the **Occupational Outlook** Quarterly for Spring 1986 and cites the numbers employed today and the growth anticipated by 1995 for over 200 fields. For each field, employment prospects are summarized. If you don't take the **OOQ** or can't xerox this article from a copy in your library, order the Spring 1986 issue for $3.00 from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

The best value in **financial aid** booklets is published by the American Legion Education Program (Americanism and Youth Division, Indianapolis, IN 46208). For $1.00 its **Need a Lift** booklets can't be beat. Another good **value is College Costs: Basic Student** Charges, 1984-85 developed by the U.S. Department of Education's Center for **Statistics. Order for $2.00 from the** Consumer Information Center, Dept. 171 P, Boulder, CO 81009. Make out check to "The Consumer Information Center".

JOBSEARCH offers a variety of information on overseas employment. Its catalog describes working conditions overseas in several countries (Italy, Morocco, Saudi Arabia) and cites a variety of publications which are available to help those interested in overseas work or employment in the United States or Canada. Its **Work Abroad Newsletter** ($5.00 per issue) lists overseas jobs. For $12 it will provide a list of openings in your field from the last 12 back issues of the newsletter. For more information, contact JOBSEARCH at P.O. Box 955, ganges, BC, Canada VOS 1E0.

SOURCE: Career Opportunities News

Improved Career Decision Making
Registration Form

HAVRE	MILES CITY	KALISPELL
LeHavre Inn	Friendship Inn/Olive Hotel	Outlaw Inn
629 West 1st	501 Main	1701 Hwy. 93 South
Havre, MT 59501	Miles City, MT 59301	Kalispell, MT 59901
Phone: 265-6711	Phone: 232-2450	Phone: 755-6100

You are responsible for making your own hotel reservations. The LeHavre Inn in Havre, the Friendship Inn and Olive Hotel in Miles City, and the Outlaw Inn in Kalispell have guaranteed a state rate of $24 per night for lodging if the SOICC provides the names of ICDM attendees prior to the conference. When registering, be sure to mention that you are attending the ICDM conference. Please indicate on the registration form below if you will be staying at one of the hotels.

If you must cancel your registration, notify the SOICC as soon as possible so we can notify people who may be on a waiting list for the conference.

A workshop agenda will be mailed to you the week prior to the conference.

The conferences will be limited to 30 participants each. Please return the registration form below to the Montana SOICC as soon as possible. If you have questions, please call the SOICC at 444-2741.

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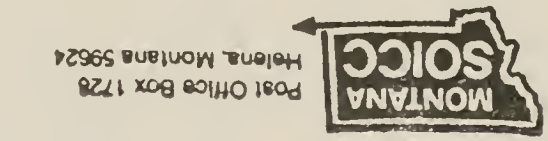

If you would like to contribute to this newsletter, contact the Montana SOICC at P.O. Box 1728, Helena, Montana 59624. The Montana SOICC reserves the right to edit all information submitted.

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